

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5192

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 636

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, NL, DA

SUBJECT: LOS - DANISH PROBE ON STRAITS

REF: THE HAGUE 635

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING GENEVA SESSION
OF LOS CONFERENCE, DANISH REP LEIF REIMANN (MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) RAISED STRAITS ISSUE IN RELATION TO
US CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES FOR UNILATERAL ACTION EXTEND-
ING FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. HE
INQUIRED AS TO WHAT THE US FELT IT HAD QUOTE TO TAKE
HOME UNQUOTE FROM THE GENEVA SESSION IN ORDER TO HEAD
OFF PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION. WHEN US TEAM GAVE ANSWER BASED
ON FISHERIES, REIMANN STATED DANISH VIEW THAT TIME WAS
NEEDED TO SETTLE QUOTE SERIOUS ISSUES UNQUOTE, BUT
THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US PROBLEM. HE THEN ASKED IF IT
WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING BACK FISHERIES BUT NOT
STRAITS. US TEAM REPLIED EMPHATICALLY IN THE NEGATIVE,
REFERRING TO OUR STATED PUBLIC POSITION AND AMB.
STEVENSON'S SPEECH OF LAST SUMMER.

2. AT LUNCH REIMANN AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF

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STRAITS, SUGGESTING THAT ONE WAY TO PROCEED IN GENEVA

WOULD BE TO VOTE EARLY ON ISSUES WHICH HAD GENERAL AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY THE TERRITORIAL SEA. HE INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE AND LEAVE NEGOTIATION ON STRAITS ISSUE UNTIL LATER TIME. U.S. TEAM REITERATED STRONGLY US POSITION.

REIMANN THEN RAISED ISSUE THIRD TIME PRIVATELY WITH HULL, POINTING OUT NEED FOR US TO SATISFY CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OVERALL LOS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. HULL RESTATED US POSITION AND REIMANN SAID QUOTE I WAS AFRAID SO UNQUOTE.

3. FYI: DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (REFTEL), REIMANN REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO RECENT DANISH/SOVIET BILATERAL LOS DISCUSSIONS (REPORTED EARLIER BY OXMAN). FROM SCOPE OF HIS REMARKS, US TEAM SURMISED THAT TALKS WERE IN DEPTH AND COVERED FULL RANGE OF LOS ISSUES.

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